

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9762

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT TU
SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT CHANGES BEFORE
TURKEY'S 1977 ELECTIONS

1. GIVEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS NO
LATER THAN OCTOBER 1977, THE YEAR AHEAD WILL NECESSARILY BE A
TIME OF CHANGE IN THE TURKISH GOVT. AS A SUPPLEMENT TO OUR
REPORTING OF POLITICAL MANEUVERING ON THIS SUBJECT, THE FOLLOWING
IS AN OVERVIEW OF BROAD POSSIBILITIES REGARDING THE TIMING AND
FORM OF CHANGES IN THE GOVT:

A. IF NO PARLIAMENTARY DECISION IS MADE TO HOLD EARLY
ELECTIONS, TURKISH LAW WILL REQUIRE THAT DEMIREL'S
"NATIONALIST FRONT" COALITION BE TRANSFORMED INTO A PROVISIONAL
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OR ELECTION GOVT IN EARLY AUGUST IN PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS
ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF OCTOBER. THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE,
INTERIOR, AND COMMUNICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED BY
INDEPENDENTS.

B. IF PARLIAMENT DOES DECIDE TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS

(MAY-JUNE IS THE PERIOD USUALLY MENTIONED), THE SAME CHANGES IN THE GOVT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE DECISION, OR ROUGHLY TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS.

C. IF THE GOVT FALLS BEFORE REACHING AN ELECTION PERIOD -- WHICH, GIVEN THE TENSION WITHIN THE PRESENT COALITION, CANNOT RPT NOT BE RULED OUT -- THEN:

(1) A CARETAKER GOVT WOULD BE DESIGNATED. IN PAST PRACTICE, THE OUTGOING GOVT GENERALLY HAS BEEN ASKED TO STAY ON UNTIL A NEW GOVT IS FORMED.

(2) THE CHANCES FOR EARLY ELECTIONS MIGHT BE ENHANCED.

(3) EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO FORM ANOTHER COALITION OR AMINORITY GOVT. IF THESE EFFORTS WERE UNPRODUCTIVE, THE CARETAKER GOVT COULD REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS --WHICH COULD MEAN THAT TURKEY WOULD HAVE A CARETAKER GOVT UNTIL NEXT OCTOBER. NEEDLESS TO SAY, VERY LITTLE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION OR TOWARD BASIC SOLUTIONS IN OTHER AREAS SO LONG AS A CARETAKER GOVT IS IN POWER HERE.

2. ALL OF THE ABOVE POSSIBILITIES COULD OF COURSE BE CANCELLED OUT BY A MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. SO FAR, HOWEVER, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RPT NO EARLY WARNING THAT ANY SUCH ACTION IS LIKELY.

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